

PATENT APPLICATION

In response to the Office Action dated December 9, 2009 having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 9, 2010, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although the Applicants believe that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-4802/ATT/2000-0540 for any additional fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.